If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this amendment, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: Feb. 26, 2002

By:

Bradley C. Wright

Registration No. 38,061

U.S.P.T.O.

Reg. No. 49,024

11th Floor 1001 G Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 508-9100

APPENDIX

Marked up version showing changes made:

- 44. (Amended) The first computer of claim 43, wherein the selected path is first computer avoids the step of avoiding selection of a path that is not operational.
- 55. (Amended) The method of claim +54, wherein step (3) comprises the step of transmitting each of the plurality of data packets across a different path in a computer network.